

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this Application and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10 and 11 are pending in the present Application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10 and 11 are amended and Claims 2, 6, 9 and 12-20 are cancelled by the present response. Thus, no new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Final Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Stefik et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,629,980, herein Stefik); and Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claims 8, 10 and 11 were amended to recite a "program code." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the early indication of the allowable subject matter in Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 10. Accordingly, Applicants have cancelled allowable Claims 2, 6 and 9 and incorporated the features therein into independent Claims 1, 5 and 8, respectively.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot and request that the above noted rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn in view of the above noted amendment incorporating allowable subject matter into the independent claims.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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